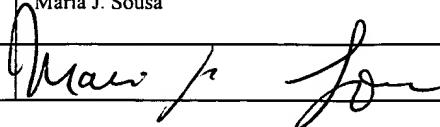
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Typed or Printed Name **Maria J. Sousa**

Signature 

Date **5/16/2005**

**PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT**

Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attorney Docket	GUID-012CON
Confirmation No.	5237
First Named Inventor	Hu, Lawrence W.
Application Number	09/900,503
Filing Date	07/06/2001
Group Art Unit	3625
Examiner Name	Smith, Jeffrey A.
Title	Surgical Retractor Platform Blade Apparatus

Sir:

Prior to examination of the current application in view of the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please amend the current application as follows: